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29 September 1971

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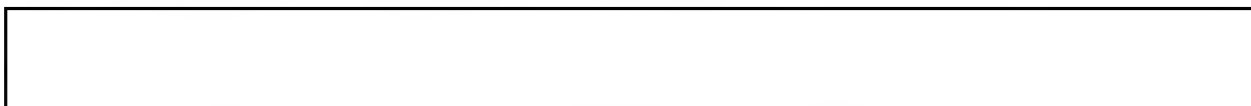
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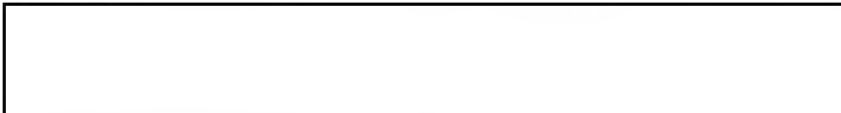
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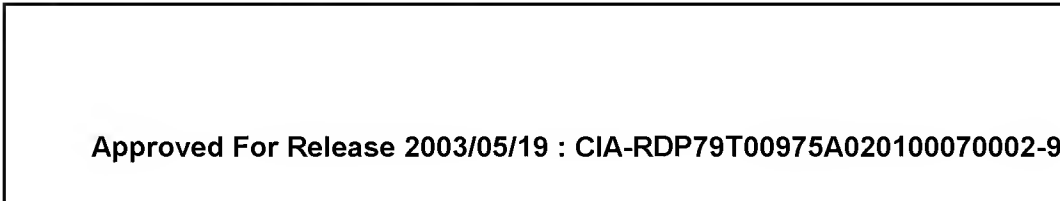
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UK-USSR: Despite a strong reaction from Moscow, London is prepared to follow through on its decision to expel some 90 Soviet officials on espionage charges.

The expulsion had been planned for some months, but London had delayed because the four-power talks on Berlin were nearing conclusion. A ranking British Foreign Ministry official has explained that information provided by a Soviet defector strengthened the government's resolve, and that a newspaper leak on the defector actually triggered the move.

The British have taken the line with Moscow that the UK sincerely desires good relations, which are jeopardized, however, by Soviet intelligence activities. Regarding Soviet demands to rescind the expulsion order, British diplomats are saying that there can be no question of any reconsideration and that further pressure on London will damage diplomatic relations still more. Should there be Soviet reprisals, the UK is prepared to respond with even greater restrictions on the still large Soviet mission in London.

The aim of British Foreign Minister Douglas-Home, who met Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko yesterday in New York, was to divert Soviet attention from possible retaliation to broader concerns of European security and general problems of Anglo-Soviet relations. The British apparently hope that their strong action will drive home to the Soviets the realization that talk of detente in Europe is incompatible with the continuation of Moscow's massive espionage effort in Europe.

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USSR - FEDERATION OF ARAB REPUBLICS: The USSR is reportedly warning certain Arab Communists that the recently formed Federation of Arab Republics (FAR) has adopted a strong anti-Communist line.

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Although the Soviets have in the past given their qualified approval to experiments at establishing Arab unity, Moscow has given a decidedly lukewarm welcome to the FAR. In the wake of the anti-Communist repression in the Sudan, the Soviets are apprehensive about the ideological hostility of the federation's leaders, who could be joined shortly by Sudanese President Numayri. They have been particularly wary of Qadhafi of Libya, who has held the views ascribed to the federation, although it is doubtful that the FAR as a whole has adopted such an ambitious program against Arab Communists. A recent Soviet article criticized the FAR for excluding Arab Communists from its "common struggle" against imperialism, and Soviet commentary has also urged the FAR to strengthen its friendship and co-operation with the Soviet Union.

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NOTES

CZECHOSLOVAKIA - WEST GERMANY: Negotiators for the two sides apparently made little headway toward political agreement during their third round of talks, which ended yesterday in Prague. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the central problem-- Prague's precondition that Bonn declare the 1938 Munich Agreement invalid ab initio--remains unresolved.

[REDACTED] the next session would probably be held in Bonn in early November. The Czechoslovaks would like to resolve their outstanding differences with Bonn and are likely to respond to reported Soviet pressures to ease their position.

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PAKISTAN-INDIA: Factionalism and leftist influence appear to be increasing within the East Pakistani separatist movement. The formation in mid-September of a multiparty Bangla Desh "consultative committee" resulted from New Delhi's concern that differences among Bangla Desh politicians in India and between them and the Mukti Bahini guerrillas inside East Pakistan were weakening the movement and helping both pro-Moscow and more radical elements to gain support among the Mukti Bahini.

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Factional differences persist, however, and Moscow-oriented leftist groups continue to gain adherents among the Mukti Bahini and probably still operate some guerrilla training camps.

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